



# Capability Roadmap Workshop for In-Situ Resource Utilization (ISRU)

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# Why Develop ISRU For Human Exploration?



## Cost, Risk, and Benefit of human/robotic exploration are dependant upon:

- Mass delivered from Earth
- Surface operation and exploration effectiveness (No. of EVAs, crew size, science, etc.)
- Minimizing hazards and critical failures

## ISRU Enables lower mission mass & cost

- In-situ propellant production **reduces Earth launch mass** or number of launches required
- Life support consumable production can amount to **several tens of MT of savings**, depending on degree of recycling and functional redundancy; emergency cache
- In-situ production capabilities can reduce mission abort scenarios thereby reducing costs
- Use of lunar produced oxygen/propellant could further reduce mission mass

## ISRU Enables “Flexible” & “Sustainable” planetary surface exploration

- In-situ production of oxygen **enables long-term surface EVA** (even with 100% closed loop life support)
- Use of common hardware & mission consumables enables increased flexibility
- In-situ fabrication of spare parts and surface infrastructure (power, habitats, shielding, etc.) enables sustainability and self-sufficiency
- ISRU can provide dissimilar redundancy thereby reducing mission risk

## Critical resources are available on Mars

- Atmospheric resources (nitrogen, argon, and carbon dioxide) are widely available
- Water may be widely available – however form and location require further investigation



# Uses of Space Resources for Robotic & Human Exploration



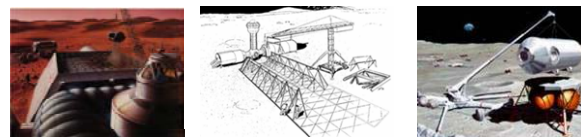
## Mission Consumable Production

- **Propellants for Lander/Ascent Vehicles, Surface Hoppers, & Aerial Vehicles**
  - Fuel cell reagents for mobile (rovers, EVA) & stationary backup power
- **Life support consumables** (oxygen, water, buffer gases)
  - Gases for science equipment and drilling
  - Bio-support products (soil, fertilizers, etc.)
  - Feedstock for in-situ manufacturing & surface construction



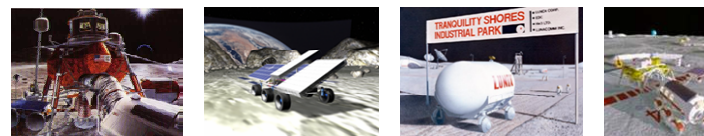
## Manufacturing w/ Space Resources

- **Spare parts manufacturing**
  - Locally integrated systems & components (especially for increasing resource processing capabilities)
  - High-mass, simple items (chairs, tables, chaises, etc.)



## Surface Construction

- **Radiation shielding for habitat & nuclear reactors from in-situ resources or products** (Berms, bricks, & plates; water; hydrocarbons)
- **Landing pad clearance**, site preparation, roads, etc.
  - Shielding from micro-meteoroid and landing/ascent plume debris
  - Habitat and equipment protection



## Space Power & Utilities

- Storage & distribution of mission consumables
- Thermal energy storage & use
- Solar energy (PV, concentrators, rectennas)
- Chemical energy (fuel cells, combustion, catalytic reactors, etc.)

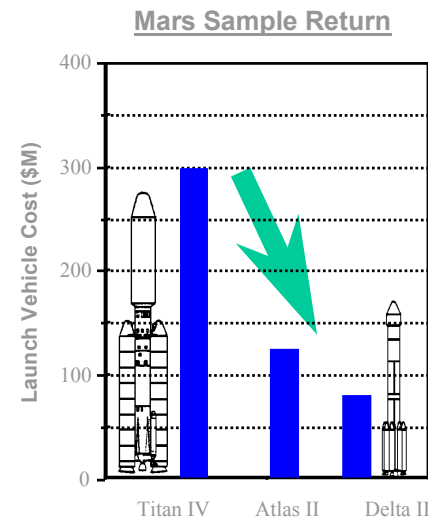


# ISRU vs. Non-ISRU Mars Mission Study Results



## Mars Sample Return with & without ISRU (Multiple Studies)

- **20% to 35% reduction** in launch **mass** for Mars Sample Return
- Possible use of Delta II or Atlas II versus Titan IV or Proton **reduces launch cost** by a **factor of 2 to 3**
- ISRU **enables** Direct Earth return sample return mission with large sample (5+ kg)
- Propellant production unit for Mars sample return mission is:
  - Same scale of production unit to supply EVA oxygen or EVA fuel cell powered rover
  - Scalable to human mission propellant production package



## Human Mars Missions

- **21 to 25% mass reduction** for Human Mars Design Reference Mission
  - Smaller lander = smaller Mars trans stage and Mars orbit capture vehicles
  - Greater mass savings with increasing Delta-V (i.e. higher Mars rendezvous orbit)
- **3.5:1 mass savings leverage** from Mars surface back to Earth, i.e. 30 MT of in-situ propellant production equals >100 MT in Low Earth Orbit



# CSM Study: Propellant from the Moon will revolutionize our current space transportation approach

Each Apollo mission utilized Earth-derived propellants (Saturn V lift-off mass = 2,962 tons)

What if lunar lander was refueled on the Moon's surface?  
73% of Apollo mass (2,160 tons)

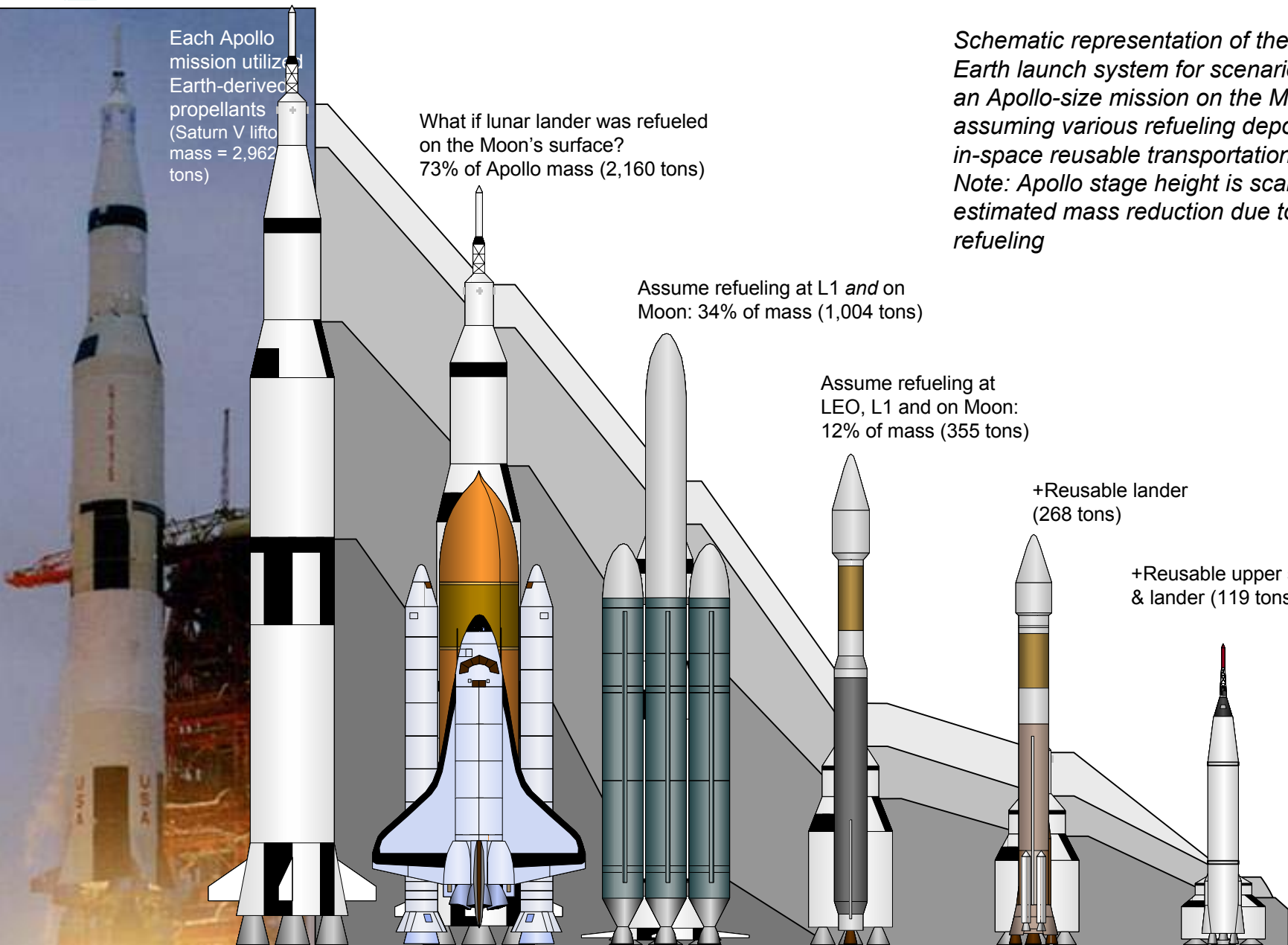
Assume refueling at L1 and on Moon: 34% of mass (1,004 tons)

Assume refueling at LEO, L1 and on Moon: 12% of mass (355 tons)

+Reusable lander (268 tons)

+Reusable upper stage & lander (119 tons)

*Schematic representation of the scale of an Earth launch system for scenarios to land an Apollo-size mission on the Moon, assuming various refueling depots and an in-space reusable transportation system. Note: Apollo stage height is scaled by estimated mass reduction due to ISRU refueling*



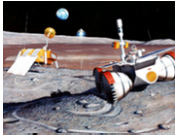




# ISRU Enables Highly Capable, Affordable & Sustainable Surface Exploration Infrastructure



## Robotic Precursors & Tele-robotic Science



### ***Power-rich environment enables new science, capabilities, and relaxed power constraints***

- Single main power source produces oxygen & fuel cell reactants for all surface assets (EVA suits, rovers, etc.)
- High power on demand capability
- Swap new fuel cell reactants w/ used water on return with samples



### ***Modular common hardware for reduced logistics, higher reliability, and increased flexibility & safety***

- Reduced logistics needs
- Simplified spare parts manufacturing or scavenging possible



### ***Production of common mission consumables increases mission effectiveness, sustainability, & provides functional redundancy to minimize risk***

- Resupply EVA O<sub>2</sub> & FC reactants from Rover to extend EVA or in case of emergency



### ***Infrastructure is reusable and easily expandable from simple robotic lander to full human presence***

- More assets can be added with increase in production capability
- Increased surface access possible with ISRU
- ISRU hoppers enable surface access at fraction of cost of dedicated lander mission
- MAV size reduced if lander stage is reused with in-situ propellant

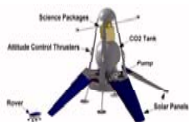
## EVA Astronaut w/ Robotic Assistant



## EVA w/ Pressurized or Un-Pressurized Rovers



## Crewed & Science Landers & Hoppers



# ISRU Commonality-Dependency With Other Capabilities

## Capability Products To ISRU

- Solar & nuclear power to support power-intensive ISRU activities
- ISRU-compatible propulsion
- Delivery of ISRU capabilities to sites of exploration
- Electromagnetic launch systems for delivery of ISRU products
- Resource location & characterization information
- Surface mobility system design & experience
- ISRU-compatible propulsion
- Delivery of ISRU capabilities to sites of exploration
- Carbon-based waste products as resource for ISRU
- Crew/robotics/rovers to perform ISRU surface activities
- Robots/rovers to perform ISRU surface activities
- Software & FDIR logic for autonomous operation
- Resource location & characterization information

High-Energy Power & Propulsion

In-Space Transportation

Advanced Telescopes & Observatories

Robotic Access to Planetary Surfaces

Human Planetary Landing Systems

Human Health and Support Systems

Human Exploration Systems & Mobility

Autonomous Systems & Robotics

Scientific Instruments & Sensors

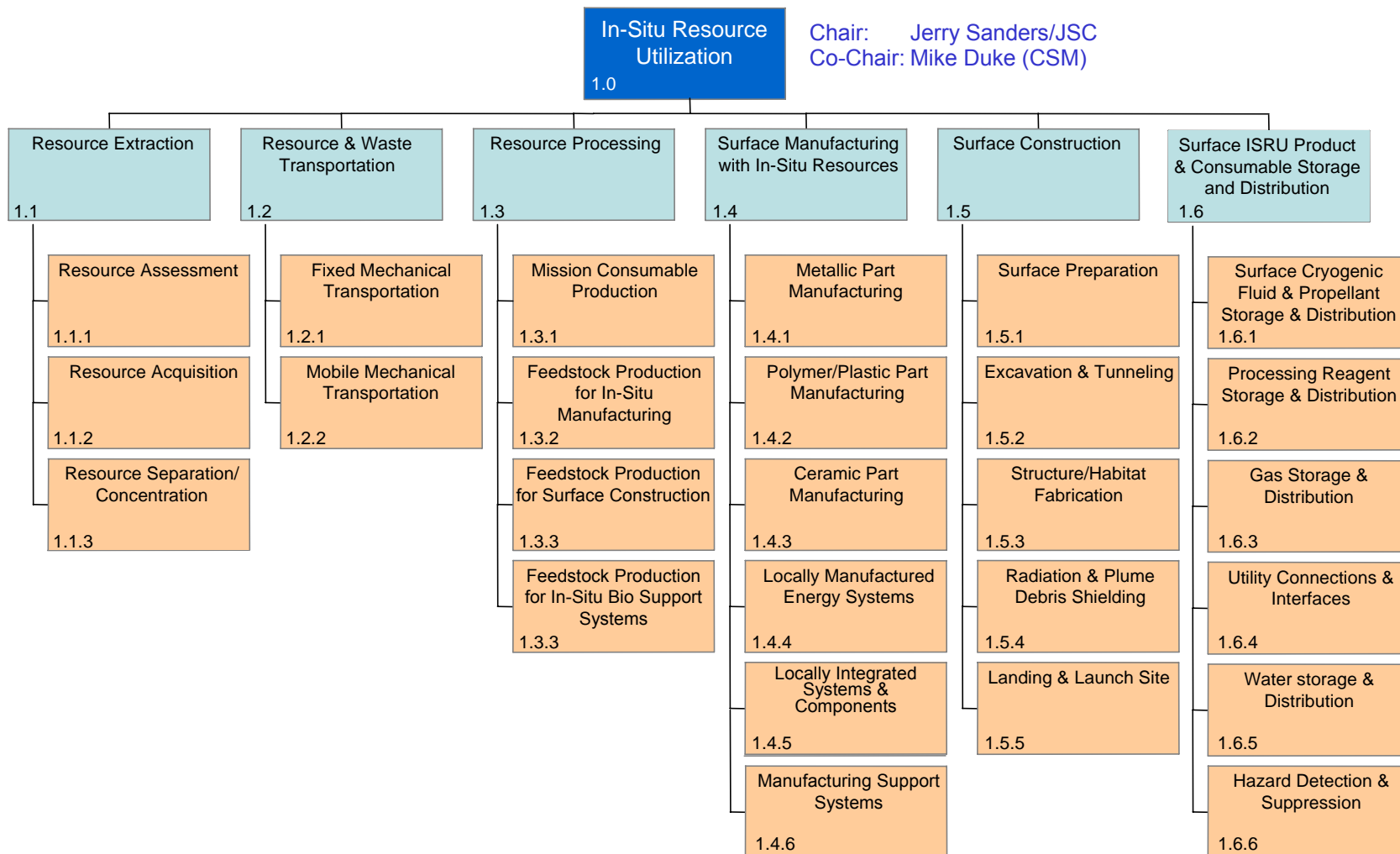
## ISRU Products To Other Capabilities

- H<sub>2</sub> & <sup>3</sup>He for NTR & fusion; Ar for electric
- Solar array and collector manufacturing & assembly
- Rectenna fabrication for orbital power beaming
- Thermal storage material production & fabrication
- Radiation shields for nuclear reactors
- Propellant production and pressurant/purge gases for lander reuse and in-space depots
- Aeroshells from Regolith
- Shaping crater for collector
- In-situ construction and fabrication
- Production of fuel cell reagents for rovers (vs solar arrays or RTGs for certain missions)
- Propellant production for surface hoppers or large sample return missions
- Landing pads/plume debris shielding
- Propellant production/storage/transfer for lander reuse
- Habitat/shelter fabrication
- Gases for inflation & buffer gases
- Life support consumable production for backup
- Radiation shields from in-situ material
- Soil & bio-feedstock for plant growth
- Materials for in-situ manufacturing
- Gases for science equipment
- Propellants & fuel cell reactants for surface vehicles and aerobots
- O<sub>2</sub> production for EVA



# In-Situ Resource Utilization (ISRU)

## Capability Breakdown Structure







# ISRU Development & Integration Philosophy

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- **Not Everything Can Be Funded Immediately**
- Need *Early, Achievable, & Visible* milestones & successes
- Need to take Evolutionary approach In development & missions
  - Early hardware needs to be achievable, not optimized
  - Early hardware needs to be scalable to future missions
  - Each design/demonstration activity needs to build on lessons learned from previous work and show clear benefit metrics
  - Research activities and technology development must be continuously performed and focused to enable sustained momentum and growth
  - Capabilities need to be able to grow with growth in:
    - Resource & process understanding
    - Human surface activities
- Mission incorporation potential
  - Robotic precursor to human mission
  - ISRU demo on early human flights
  - Lander/mission dedicated to ISRU process
- No single processes or technology is best
  - Develop two or more approaches if possible to ensure success



# Criteria To Evaluate ISRU Activity Priority



- Mission Mass Reduction (immediate & long-term)
  - Ability to provide immediate/early impact on mission
  - Minimum infrastructure/launches required to provide product/service
- Complexity/Risk
  - ISRU Process/Service
  - Compared to “bring from Earth” approach
- DDT&E & mission cost reduction
  - Ability of hardware/technology to be used in multiple applications & destinations
  - Rate of return on investment by Gov or Commercial Enterprise
- Mission risk reduction
- Ability to Enable Mission Goals/Objectives
  - Sustained human presence & long-term self-sufficiency
- ISRU Processing Attributes
  - Reliability/Mean Time Between Repairs
  - Mass of Product/Service vs Mass of ISRU “system”
  - Power Requirement Per Mass of Product/Service
  - Production rate
  - Growth potential
  - % of Earth Consumable (immediate & long-term)
- Enables space commercialization and other applications
  - NASA-Science
  - Military Missions
  - Debris Management
  - Satellite Servicing & Refueling
  - Space Solar Power

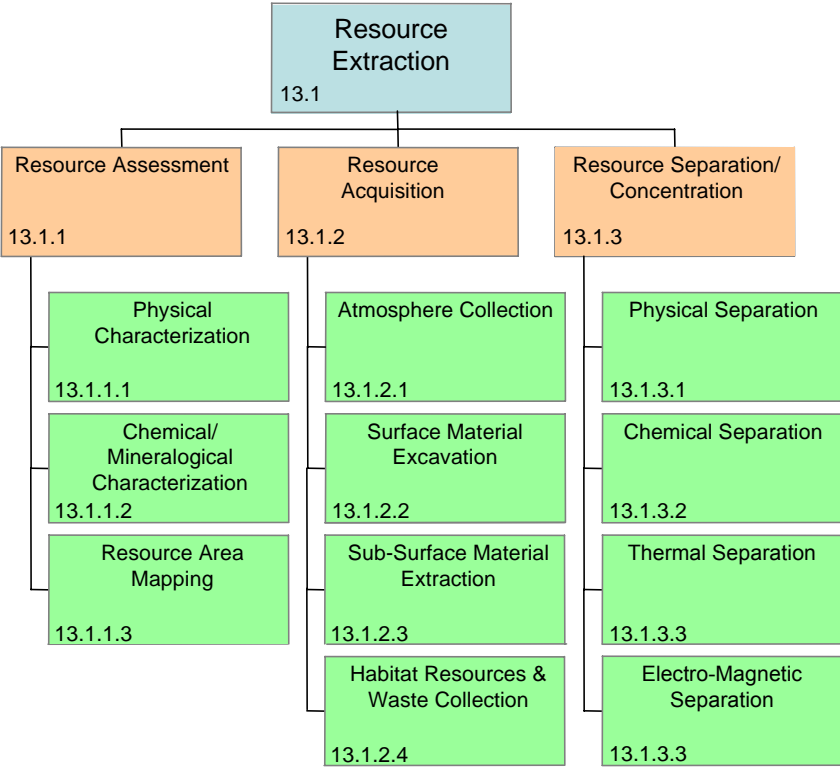


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# Backup

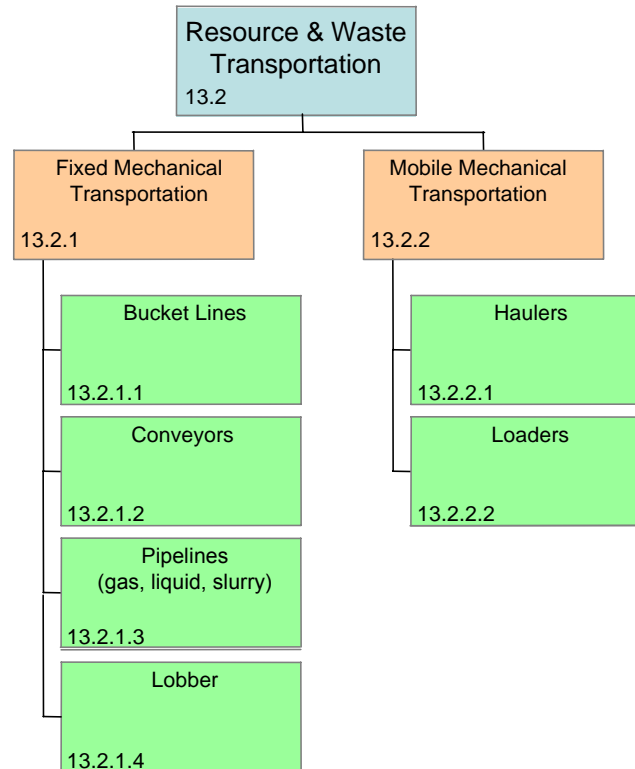


# Resource Extraction



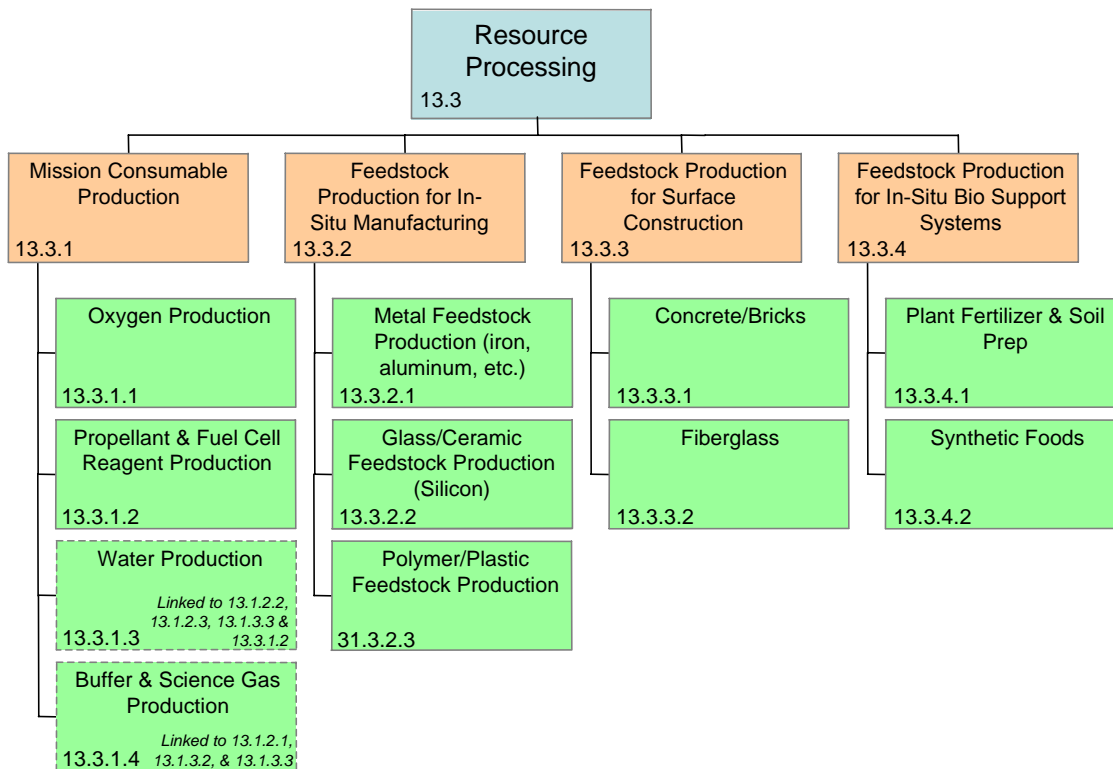


# Resource & Waste Transport





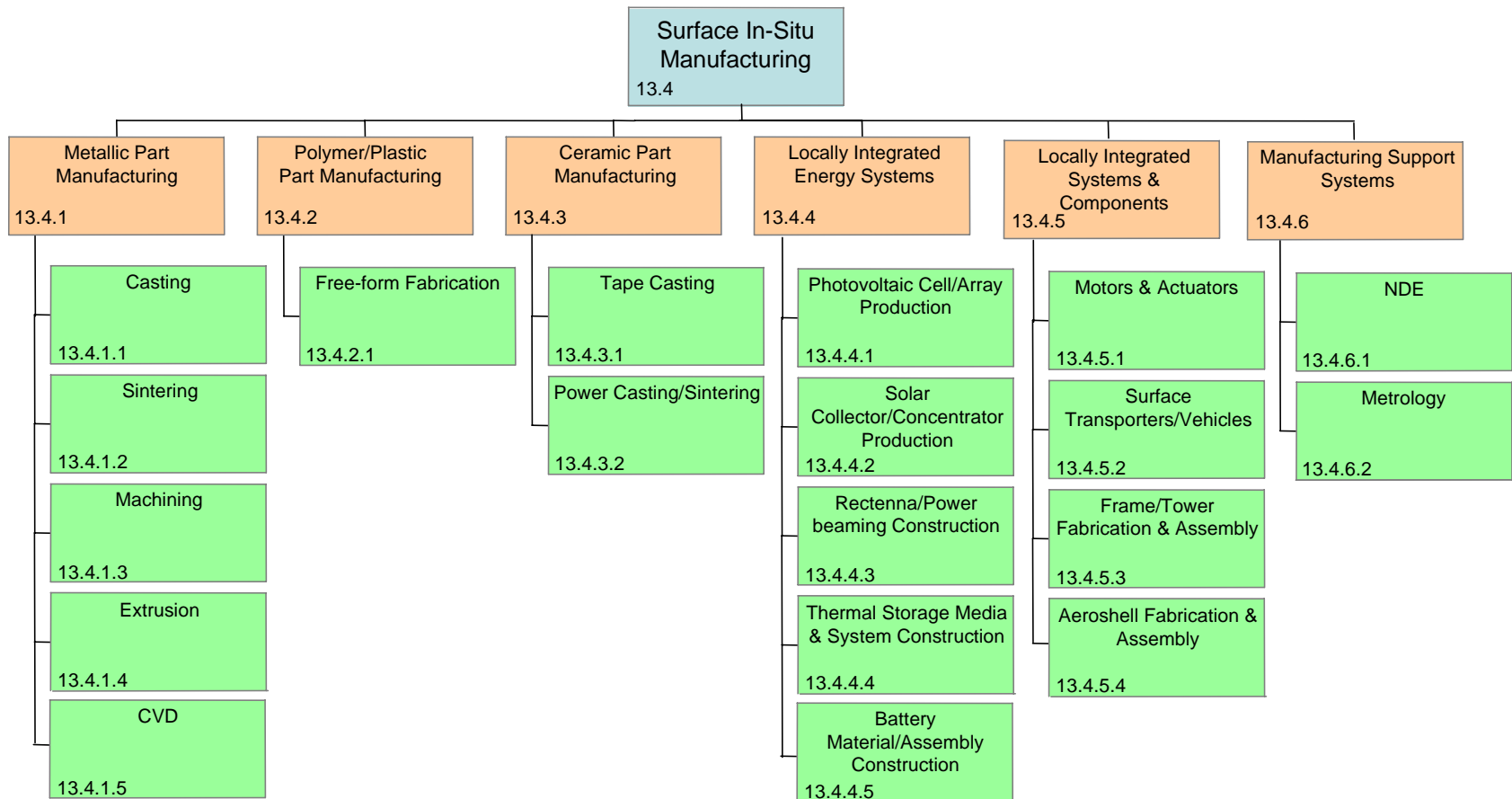
# Resource Processing





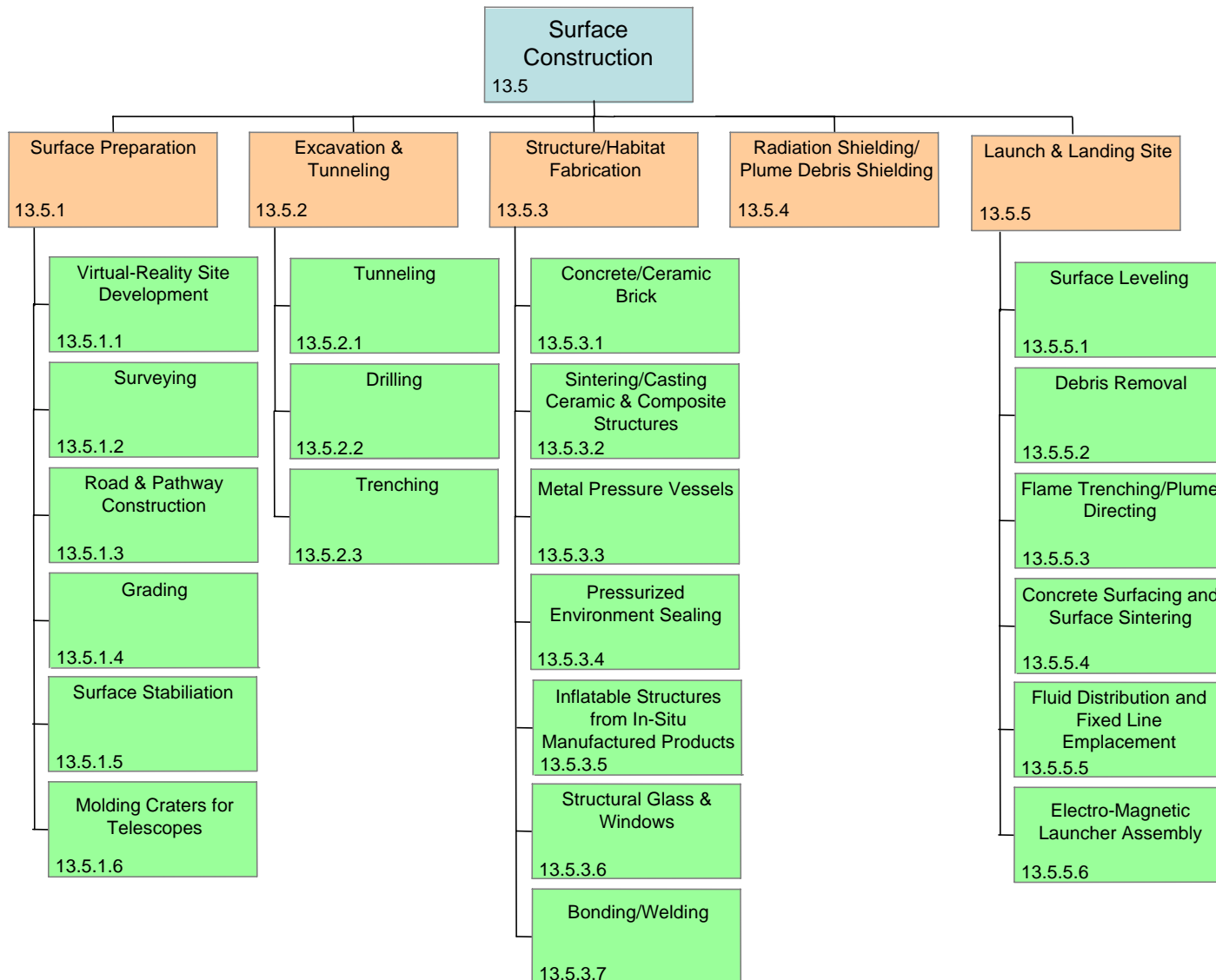


# Surface In-Situ Manufacturing



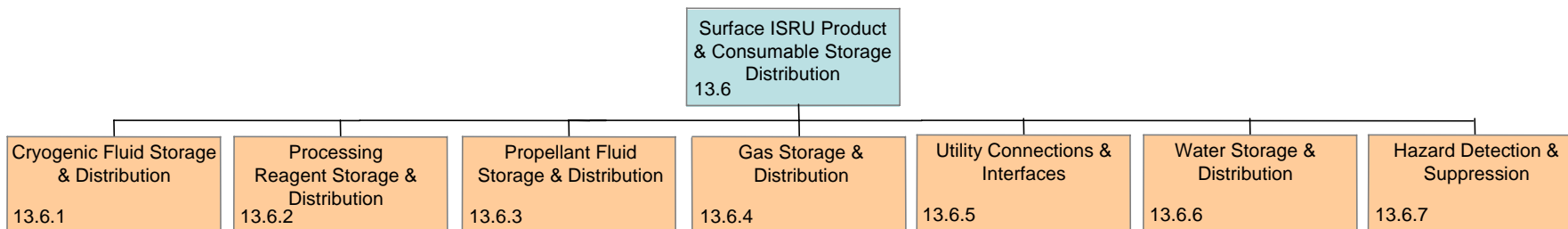


# Surface Construction





# Surface Consumable & Product Storage and Distribution





# ISRU Capability Team

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Chair: Gerald (Jerry) Sanders (JSC)

Co-Chair: Mike Duke (Colorado School of Mines)

## **NASA (8)**

Kris Romig (JSC) - Chair Secretary

William Larson (KSC)

Lou Salerno (ARC)

Don Rapp (JPL)

Kurt Sacksteder (GRC)

Peter Curreri (MSFC)

David McKay (JSC)

Stu Nozette (HQ)

## **Academia (2)**

Brad Blair (Colorado School of Mines)

Leslie Gertsch (Univ of Missouri/Rolla)

## **Industry (3)**

Eric Rice (Orbitec)

Larry Clark (Lockheed Martin)

Robert Zubrin (Pioneer Ast.)



# ISRU Challenges & Technology Drivers



- **In-Situ Resource Excavation & Separation:** Efficient excavation of resources in extremely cold (ex. Lunar permanent shadows), dusty/abrasive, and/or micro-g environments (Asteroids, comets, Mars moons, etc.)
  - Efficient, wear tolerant (dust insensitive) small grain regolith excavation and collection
  - Efficient “hard” resource excavation and collection
  - Efficient thermal (solar, electrical, or microwave) furnace for volatile extraction from resources
  - Flexible and efficient techniques for mining, tunneling, drilling, and other material manipulation in unknown materials and harsh environments
- **In-Situ Resource Processing & Refining:** Affordable, reliable and effective local production, using local materials of key mission/systems resources (including life support system consumables, propellants, etc.). Processing and manufacturing techniques capable of producing 100 times their own mass of product in their useful lifetimes.
  - Microchannel and etched chemical/thermal processors for significant mass, volume, & power reduction
  - Efficient system-wide thermal management to minimize power requirements
  - Chemically efficient processing to minimize or eliminate need for Earth consumables
- **Manufacturing With In-Situ Resources an/or In-Situ Products:** Affordable and flexible local manufacture of robust, high-value components, systems elements, and systems (e.g., structural elements, tankage, solar arrays, spare parts for systems, etc.) in lunar and planetary venues using ‘imported’ and local materials. In-situ manufacture of parts and equipment with the minimum of required equipment and crew training



# ISRU Challenges & Technology Drivers (Cont.)



- **Surface Construction:** Affordable and flexible construction of robust local structures (e.g., radiation shielding, site preparation, habitats, transportation infrastructures, etc.) in lunar and planetary venues using local (or 'imported') materials. Construction and erection techniques capable of producing complex structures from a variety of available materials.
  - Conversion of Earth construction techniques to space environment
    - Little or no atmosphere (spraying and curing difficulties)
    - Extreme temperature variations
    - Variable g-levels
    - Suited astronauts
  
- **Surface ISRU Consumables/Product Storage and Distribution:** Affordable, reliable and effective local management, handling, transport and storage of key consumables and products.
  - Power efficient and long-life refrigerators and cryocoolers for separation, liquefaction, and storage
  - Mass, power, and efficient insulation and storage tanks
  - Fluid transfer systems and couplings with dust mitigation
  - Efficient and capable surface transportation systems





# Capability Roadmap Products



- Overall description of the capabilities or knowledge needed
  - Primary purpose to fulfill Vision
  - However, need to understand potential of revolutionary technology to further the NASA capability
- Benefit of the capability, **why is it needed**, (e.g. **reduce cost, reduce mass, mission enabling, reduce risk, etc.**)
- Background and relevant history of related developments, **including mission application**
- Driving requirements and delivery dates
  - Agency Strategies (which of the 13 strategies), that drive the need for the capability (make assumptions until Strategic roadmap teams mature their product, then make adjustments)
  - Reference Mission Architecture Assumptions including operational scenarios (To be provided on or before October 19)
  - If Reference Missions are used other than those provided in this framework then add:
    - Description of the reference mission
    - Operational scenario of the reference mission
    - How it aligns with spirals, if applicable
    - Rationale for why it needs to be added
  - External requirements, including national priorities
  - Program or project requirements
  - Key variables driving technology choices (e.g. flight frequency, crew size, mission duration).



# Capability Roadmap Products (cont)



- Identification of key component technologies and a description of how they are integrated to provide the capability
  - What is needed to turn technologies into capabilities
  - Identification of key national expertise/assets/facilities, that are needed for the capability
  - Summary of potential revolutionary or advanced concepts for achieving the capability
- Assessment of the current state of the art of key component technologies
  - Leading technology candidates
  - Current technology readiness levels
  - Key gaps between state of the art and required performance levels
  - Description of development to close the identified gaps
  - Estimated date to reach a TRL of 6 for key technologies
  - Identification of metrics to evaluate development progress and ultimately judge whether the capability has been achieved (Figures of merit for the technology)
- Assessment of the current state of the art of the overall capability and key component technologies
  - Current capability readiness level
  - Description of capability development required, level of performance and expected deliverables
  - Estimated date to reach readiness of the capability necessary for a mission and under what assumptions
  - Identification of major challenges in meeting the required capabilities, assessment of risk, alternatives or offramps; consequence of not achieving the capability



# Capability Roadmap Products (cont)

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- Estimated Funding required for Capability development or knowledge development **(Estimate funding within half an order of magnitude at the capability level and technology level); (Runout cost from the current state of the art until delivery of the product)**
- High level roadmap identifying capability development for 2005- 2030
- Backup roadmaps that show the sub-capability development and component technologies **for 2005-2030 (format to be provided)**
- Dependency on other Roadmaps
  - Relationships to strategic roadmaps
  - Relationships to other capability roadmaps
- Delivery of final report with the above content
- Appendix: **Supporting Documents, references, (e.g. CRAI data)**